



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **4 ILLEGAL ALIENS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING**

CLEVELAND — Four illegal aliens from Mexico were sentenced today and last week for transporting illegal aliens in two separate cases, announced U.S. Attorney Gregory A. White, Northern District of Ohio, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent-in-Charge Brian M. Moskowitz.

- Jose Munguia-Moreno, 30, and Maria Del Carmen Solano-Pioquinto, 41, were sentenced today to 12 months and a day each in prison after pleading guilty June 22. The Strongsville Police near Cleveland apprehended them after a routine stop. The two were transporting 19 passengers, all citizens of Mexico unlawfully present in the United States.
- On September 6, Juan Vasquez-Hernandez, 29, and Galvino Hernandez-Juarez, 24, were sentenced to four months each in prison after pleading guilty June 13. Cleveland Police apprehended the two after a routine traffic stop for driving an unsafe vehicle near the Burke Airport. Inside their vehicle were 13 illegal aliens.

The ICE investigation, based on interviews with the aliens and evidence found in the vehicles, determined that all 32 illegal aliens had been smuggled into the United States from Mexico within days of being encountered. The average fee paid by each was between \$1,500 and \$2,500. Each of the defendants was paid over \$10,000 for their part in the smuggling process.

"Smugglers routinely put the safety of the public and the welfare of their human cargo in jeopardy as they attempt to move people from one place to another," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Detroit office. "The great work of the local law enforcement, and our ICE special agents in Cleveland brought this incident to a safe conclusion." Moskowitz heads the Office of Investigations, which includes the states of Michigan and Ohio.

The cases were presided over by Judge Dan A. Polster and Judge Christopher Boyko, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory C. Sasse, Northern District of Ohio, prosecuted both cases.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*